

Outdoor Ideas

You can extend children's learning by adding new materials to the outdoor play area. The environment should allow for opportunities for quiet play, as well as active play. When writing lesson plans, consider how the current theme/topic of study or project can be incorporated into outdoor activities. Perhaps a classroom job for a child could be to fill a basket with the materials to take outside each day.

Quiet Play:

- Chalk (regular or large size)
- Easel for drawing or painting
- Outdoor library
- Outdoor writing center
- Puppets with theater

Active Play:

- Bean bag games
- Bean bags, baskets and targets for throwing games
- Cardboard boxes—many different sizes
- Exercise mat
- Flexible dryer hoses
- Hollow blocks
- Jump ropes, balls, hoops, streamers, catching games
- Obstacle course for running or riding trikes (use cones, stop signs, etc.)
- Parachute Props for dress-up
- Plastic/PVC piping
- Portable tunnel
- Tape recorder for creative movement along with scarves, shakers, streamers, and musical instruments
- Walkie Talkies
- Walking boards or balance beam
- Woodworking bench and materials (remember the safety goggles and direct teacher supervision)

Can be both Quiet and Active:

- Bubbles
- Designate a part of the playground area as a garden. Have the children plant and tend to it during playground time. Be sure to have watering cans, tools, and gloves for the children.
- Materials for pouring and digging: buckets, bowls, shovels, spoons, scoops, funnels, sifter, pots, pans, molds, plastic pitchers, old trucks and cars, plastic people, flowers (real or plastic) and animals.
- Old sheet hung on the fence and squirt bottles filled with diluted tempera paint for "spray" murals
- Paper for foot printing
- Paper hung on the fence for mural painting
- Sensory table with water, ice, grass, leaves, mud, bubbles, etc.
- Vinyl table cloth, picnic basket, plates, food, etc. for "pretend picnics"

Please refer to the GELDS (Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards) for specific standards and indicators.